

Claims

I claim:

- 1 1. A method for inducing a protective immune response against FIV infection in a
2 susceptible host animal comprising administering to said host an effective amount of a
3 vaccine composition that is capable of eliciting an immune response against a plurality of
4 FIV subtypes.
- 1 2. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said vaccine composition is selected
2 from the group consisting of FIV polypeptides derived from multiple FIV subtypes, multiple
3 cell-free whole FIV virus, and multiple cell lines, wherein each of said cell lines is infected
4 with an FIV strain from a different FIV subtype.
- 1 3. The method, according to claim 2, wherein said FIV virus or FIV-infected cell
2 line is treated in a manner to inactivate said virus or said cell line prior to administration of
3 said vaccine to said host animal.
- 1 4. The method, according to claim 2, wherein said FIV virus or FIV-infected cell
2 line is treated in a manner to attenuate said virus or said cell line prior to administration of
3 said vaccine to said host animal.
- 1 5. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said FIV subtype is selected from the
2 group consisting of subtypes A, B, C and D.
- 1 6. A vaccine composition, comprising FIV immunogens, wherein said immunogens
2 are capable of eliciting an immune response against a plurality of FIV subtypes in an FIV-
3 susceptible animal.

1 7. The vaccine composition, according to claim 5, wherein said vaccine composition
2 is selected from the group consisting of FIV polypeptides derived from multiple FIV
3 subtypes, multiple cell-free whole FIV virus, and multiple cell lines, wherein each of said
4 cell lines is infected with an FIV strain from a different FIV subtype.

1 8. The vaccine composition, according to claim 6, wherein said FIV virus or FIV-
2 infected cell line is treated in a manner to inactivate said virus or said cell line prior to
3 administration of said vaccine to said host animal.

1 9. The vaccine composition, according to claim 6, wherein said FIV virus or FIV-
2 infected cell line is treated in a manner to attenuate said virus or said cell line prior to
3 administration of said vaccine to said host animal.

1 10. A feline-derived T cell line, wherein said cell line is susceptible to infection by
2 at least one FIV subtype, wherein said FIV subtype is selected from the group consisting of
3 subtypes A, B, C and D.

1 11. The cell line, according to claim 9, wherein said cell line is designated FeT-1C.

1 12. The cell line, according to claim 10, wherein said cell line is infected with at
2 least one of the FIV virus strains selected from the group consisting of FIV_{Dix}, FIV_{UK8},
3 FIV_{Bang}, FIV_{Aom1}, FIV_{Aom2}, FIV_{Pet}, and FIV_{Shi}.

1 13. The cell line, according to claim 9, wherein said cell line is IL-2 independent.

1 14. The cell line, according to claim 13, wherein said cell line is infected with at
2 least one of the FIV virus strains selected from the group consisting of FIV_{Dix}, FIV_{UK8},
3 FIV_{Bang}, FIV_{Aom1}, FIV_{Aom2}, FIV_{Pet}, and FIV_{Shi}.

1 15. The cell line, according to claim 13, wherein said cell line is designated FeT-J.

1 16. A method for detecting or determining the quantity of FIV viral neutralization
2 antibodies in a sample, comprising contacting said sample with FIV, then culturing a cell
3 line of claim 10 in said sample for an effective amount of time, culturing said cells in fresh
4 culture media and then determining the amount of reverse transcriptase activity in said
5 culture media.

1 17. The method, according to claim 16, wherein said cell line is selected from the
2 group consisting of cell lines designated as FeT-1C and FeT-J.